

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the instant claims are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 USC 102/103

Claims 1- 3, 5,6 and 11-16 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over US 5,418,051 to Caldwell (Caldwell)

Caldwell does not anticipate the subject claims because it does not unequivocally disclose each and every element of the claims. Further, in order to anticipate, the reference must provide the relevant subject matter in an enabling form. The Examiner admits that Caldwell does not explicitly teach the stress index of the subject claims. The Examiner instead suggests that the properties are inherent to the laminate disclosed in Caldwell. Caldwell only discloses a silicone polymer imbedded in the fabrics and a fluorochemical surface treatment on the surface. The subject application does not mention silicone or fluorochemical as the first and second polymer. Further, Caldwell does not disclose or suggest any of the first or second polymers disclosed in the subject application. As such, the Examiner's reliance on Caldwell is misplaced and the rejection as to anticipation under 35 USC 102 (b) is improper and should be withdrawn.

For the same reason, Caldwell does not provide any suggestion to one of ordinary skill to imbed a polymer having a first stress index into a fabric and then to provide a second polymer having a higher stress index onto the surface of the fabric. A prima facie case of obviousness has not been shown and the rejection under 35 USC 103 (a) should be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 4 and 7-10 would be deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form.

It is believed that the foregoing is a complete response to the subject Office Action. Applicants believe that all rejections have been overcome and that the instant claims are now in condition for allowance. If any matters remain for resolution, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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